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In the claims:

1. - 18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) An electro-mechanical chest compression device comprising ~~The chest compression device of claim 10~~  
~~further comprising:~~

a housing for supporting a patient's back;

a motor disposed in the housing below the patient when the patient is supported by the housing;

a channel beam mounted to the housing, said channel beam laterally oriented with respect to the patient and defining a channel that extends laterally across the width of the housing;

a drive spool spanning the channel beam, said drive spool operably attached to the motor and rotatably attached to the channel beam, wherein the motor is capable of rotating the drive spool;

a belt attached to the drive spool and disposed laterally within the channel, said belt capable of extending at least partially around the chest of a patient, wherein rotation of the drive spool tightens the belt to compress the chest of the patient;

a spline attached to the belt; and

a slot disposed in the drive spool along the length of the drive spool, said slot sized and dimensioned to closely match the size and dimensions of the spline, wherein the belt is attached to the drive spool when the spline is disposed in the slot.

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20. (original) The chest compression device of claim 19 further comprising:

a guide plate;

wherein the guide plate is operably attached to a component of the chest compression device selected from the group consisting of the drive spool, the channel beam or both the drive spool and the channel beam;

wherein the guide plate is further disposed such that the guide plate secures the spline within the drive spool slot when the spline is inserted into the drive spool slot.

21. (currently amended) ~~The chest compression device of claim 10 further comprising~~ An electro-mechanical chest compression device comprising:

a housing for supporting a patient's back;

a motor disposed in the housing below the patient when the patient is supported by the housing;

a channel beam mounted to the housing, said channel beam laterally oriented with respect to the patient and defining a channel that extends laterally across the width of the housing;

a drive spool spanning the channel beam, said drive spool operably attached to the motor and rotatably attached to the channel beam, wherein the motor is capable of rotating the drive spool;

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a belt attached to the drive spool and disposed laterally within the channel, said belt capable of extending at least partially around the chest of a patient, wherein rotation of the drive spool tightens the belt to compress the chest of the patient; and

a first spindle rotatably attached to a first end of the channel beam and a second spindle rotatably attached to a second end of the channel, said second spindle disposed opposite the first spindle.

22. (original) The chest compression device of claim 21 wherein the distance between the first spindle and the second spindle is in the range of about 12 inches to about 22 inches.

23. (original) The chest compression device of claim 21 wherein the first spindle and the second spindle are inset a distance from the edges of the housing.

24. - 31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) An electro-mechanical chest compression device ~~The chest compression device of claim 10 further~~ comprising:

a housing for supporting a patient's back;

a motor disposed in the housing below the patient when the patient is supported by the housing;

a channel beam mounted to the housing, said channel beam laterally oriented with respect to the patient and defining a channel that extends laterally across the width of the housing;

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a drive spool spanning the channel beam, said drive spool operably attached to the motor and rotatably attached to the channel beam, wherein the motor is capable of rotating the drive spool;

a belt attached to the drive spool and disposed laterally within the channel, said belt capable of extending at least partially around the chest of a patient, wherein rotation of the drive spool tightens the belt to compress the chest of the patient;

a detent operably connected to a component of the chest compression device selected from the group consisting of the drive spool and the channel beam; and

wherein the detent is disposed such that the spool shaft is prohibited from rotating when the chest compression device is not in use.

33. (original) The chest compression device of claim 32 further comprising:

a spline attached to the belt;

a slot disposed in the drive spool along the length of the drive spool, said slot sized and dimensioned to closely match the size and dimensions of the spline, wherein the belt is attached to the drive spool when the spline is disposed in the slot;

wherein when the spline is inserted into the drive spool slot the detent is displaced such that the spool shaft is allowed to rotate.